

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18, and 20 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 20 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for anonymously testing a patient, ~~said the~~ method comprising:
assigning a unique numerical identifier to a patient and at least one test for a medical condition, wherein ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier identifies the patient and the at least one test to be performed for the patient;
transmitting ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier to a testing facility;
receiving a biological sample from the patient at ~~said the~~ testing facility, wherein ~~said the~~ biological sample is identified by ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier;
performing ~~a~~ the at least one test on ~~said the~~ biological sample to detect ~~a~~ the medical condition and determining a test result, wherein ~~said the at least one~~ test is performed by ~~said the~~ testing facility;
correlating ~~said the~~ test result from ~~said the at least one~~ test with ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier;
receiving a request for ~~said the~~ test result from the patient, wherein the patient is identified by ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier; and
providing ~~said the test results~~ result to the patient, thereby protecting the anonymity of the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ biological sample is obtained at ~~said the~~ testing facility and ~~said the~~ testing facility uses ~~said the~~ unique numerical identifier to identify the patient.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein receiving-~~said~~ the request from the patient is conducted through an internet site.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein providing-~~said~~ the test-~~results~~ result to the patient is conducted through-~~an~~ the internet site.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising providing-~~pre-testing~~ pre-test counseling prior to assigning-~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein-~~said~~ the medical condition is selected from the group consisting of HIV, Herpes, Breast cancer, Colon cancer, Hemophilia, Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, Becker's muscular dystrophy, Adrenoleukodystrophy, Phenylketonuria, Long QT syndrome, Beta thalassemia, Cystic Fibrosis, Fragile X, Huntington's disease, Hurler syndrome, Lesch Nyhan syndrome, Neurofibromatosis, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Von Hippel Lindau and Alzheimers.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising: determining if-~~said~~ the patient has a positive test result for a human malady or predisposition to a human malady; and providing information regarding-~~said~~ the human malady or-~~said~~ the predisposition to a human malady to-~~said~~ the patient prior to providing-~~said~~ the test result.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7 wherein-~~said~~ the information is provided by a counselor.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein-~~said~~ the counselor provides-~~said~~ the test result.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of mucosal fluid, blood, urine and feces.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the testing facility draws ~~said~~ the biological sample from the patient.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for anonymously testing a patient, ~~said~~ the method comprising:
assigning a patient a unique numerical identifier and a test for a medical condition, wherein ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier identifies the patient and the test to be performed for the patient;
transmitting ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier to a testing facility;
receiving a biological sample from the patient at ~~said~~ the testing facility, wherein ~~said~~ the biological sample is identified by ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier;
performing ~~a~~ the test on ~~said~~ the biological sample to detect ~~a~~ the medical condition and determining a test result;
correlating ~~said~~ the test result from ~~said~~ the test with ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier;
receiving a request for ~~said~~ the test result from the patient through an internet site, wherein the patient is identified by ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier;
verifying ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier against a database of valid unique numerical identifiers after receiving ~~said~~ the request; and
providing ~~said~~ the test ~~results~~ result to the patient over the internet site if ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier is valid, thereby protecting the anonymity of the patient.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising transferring the patient's internet contact to a secure server, prior to providing ~~said~~ the test ~~results~~ result.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ the unique numerical identifier is assigned by an entity separate from ~~said~~ the testing facility.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
determining if the patient has a positive test result for a human malady or predisposition to a human malady; and
providing information regarding ~~said~~ the human malady or ~~said~~ the predisposition to a human malady to ~~said~~ the patient prior to providing ~~said~~ the test result.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein ~~said~~ the information comprises textual information.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, further comprising:
querying the patient to determine if the patient desires counseling; and
providing the patient with counseling, wherein ~~the~~ a counselor provides the test ~~results~~ result.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
querying the patient regarding desired online counseling; and
providing an instant messaging account ~~number~~ number, an instant messaging account, and instructions for using ~~said~~ the instant messaging account, wherein the patient has indicated a desire for online counseling, and connecting ~~a~~ the counselor by ~~said~~ the instant messaging account to the patient, thereby providing additional information to the patient.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein providing the patient with counseling is conducted through e-mail of a secure web page.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ the biological sample is selected from the group consisting of mucosal fluid, blood, urine and feces.